

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03687 200326Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----053426 200338Z /62

R 170915Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 3687

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 3 .)

FOR SAUNDERS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, XF
SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF AIRCRAFT SALE

REF: (A) STATE 123875 (B) STATE 123877

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY
THUNNAYAN ON MAY 16 AND GAVE HIM TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT (REF A). I ALSO CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REF B,
PARA 4, DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION.

2. THUNNAYAN WAS OBVIOUSLY ELATED BY SENATE ACTION
AND EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT WAY WAS NOW OPEN FOR
CLOSER U.S.- SAUDI COOPERATION IN A VARIETY OF
FIELDS. HE THEN TALKED ABOUT NEED FOR CLOSER

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COOPERATION IN RESISTING SOVIET-CUBAN INITIATIVES
IN AREA. HE MENTIONED AFGHANISTAN, THE HORN OF
AFRICA, AND MOST RECENTLY SHABA PROVINCE IN ZAIRE
AS EXAMPLES OF COMMUNIST INSPIRED AGGRESSION. HE
SAID IT WAS TIME FOR USG TO SHAKE OFF ITS PAST
VIET NAM TRAUMA AND LOOK TO ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS
WHICH WERE BEING THREATENED THROUGHOUT AREA.

3. THUNNAYAN SAID HE HAD TALKED TO ZAIRIAN AMB THAT MORNING AND SAKED HIM TO TAKE A QUICK TRIP BACK TO ZAIRE AND THEM GIVE HIM HIS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. AMBASSADOR HAD INDICATED THAT ZAIRE GOVERNMENT WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT IT COULD HANDLE SITUATION IN SHABA, BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT ATTACH MIGHT BE A DIVERSION TO COVER MORE SERIOUS AGGRESSION SCHEDULED IN COUNTRY.

4. THUNNAYAN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT GROUP WHO HAD TAKEN POWER IN AFGHANISTAN WERE USSR ORIENTED COMMUNISTS. THEY WILL BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ASSERTING THIS FACT, HOWEVER, SINCE VAST MAJORITY OF THEIR PEOPLE ARE BELIEVING MUSLIMS. THEY WILL FIRST WANT TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY BEFORE REVEALING THEIR TRUE NATURE. ACCORDING TO THUNAYYAN, AFGHAN ARMY UNITS AS A MATTER OF POLICY WERE GIVEN AMMUNITION FOR ONLY TWO HOURS OF COMBAT. SOME OF THESE UNITS FOUGHT FOR 36 HOURS DURING THE COUP. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEY WERE RECEIVING OUTSIDE SUPPORT. SAG CONCLUDED THAT THIS SUPPORT COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

5. THUNAYYAN ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER
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INTERNAL DISTURBANCES IN IRAN.

6. CHARGE MENTIONED RECENT USG INVITATION TO SAG TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AND ALSO SAID THAT USG HOPED TO CONTINUE OUR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH SAG ON ALL OF THESE CONFLICT AREAS.
WILEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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